

## Texas keeping most truck inspections despite border gridlock

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday defied mounting pressure to end truck inspections that have gridlocked the U.S.-Mexico border for days, backing up cargo for miles and spoiling produce shipments, saying he would not repeal his new policy at all bridges until there are more assurances of security. Abbott did lift inspections at one international bridge after announcing what he said was an agreement for more enhanced security with Nuevo Leon Gov. Samuel García, whose Mexican state is across the border from Laredo. But the most dramatic backups of commercial trucks along Texas' 1,200-

mile border have occurred at other bridges that do not share a border with Nuevo Leon. That includes the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, which has been effectively closed since Monday by trucker protests.

Abbott said he hoped other Mexican states would follow Nuevo Leon and also reach agreements with Texas.

Pressure on Abbott had continued to mount, including from allies of the two-term governor.

The Texas Trucking Association, which has endorsed Abbott for reelection, said that the current situation "cannot be sustained" as the delays postponed deliveries and threatened to empty store shelves.

Continued on next page



A long line of trucks is seeing stalled at the Bridge of the Americas, one of two ports of entry in Ciudad Juarez going into the U.S. on April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**Happy Hour**  
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

\*\*\*  
PREMIUM  
BRANDS  
\*\*\*

KARAOKE  
HAPPY HOUR  
9:00 - 11:00pm

**costa linda**  
beach resort

**WATER'S EDGE**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at [wateredge-aruba.com](http://wateredge-aruba.com) | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

**TRAVEL INSURANCE ACCEPTED**  
SEEK REIMBURSEMENT ONCE BACK HOME

**NOORD MEDICAL CENTER, NOORD 63**

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR NON-LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

**WWW.URGENTCARE.AW**

**BOOK YOUR PCR & ANTIGEN TEST**

**WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM**

**MEDLAB**

**Urgent Care Aruba**

**Papillon**  
RESTAURANT

- \* Outdoor Seating
- \* Early Bird from 5 till 7
- \* Live music

**Chef's Garden**  
Papillon  
RESTAURANT

Chef's Tasting Menu  
by Chef Martijn Liebrechts  
Located in "The Secret Garden"



# EASTER BRUNCH

CELEBRATE EASTER INDULGING IN AN EXQUISITE BRUNCH BUFFET AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA

APRIL 17 | 11 AM – 2 PM | ADULTS \$65 - TEENS \$35 - CHILDREN (5-12) \$25  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 527 2222



## Continued from Front

The Mexican governors of Coahuila and Tamaulipas, which both border Texas, also sent Abbott a letter calling the inspections overzealous and "creating havoc and economic pain" on both sides of the border.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — One of the busiest trade ports on the U.S.-Mexico border remained effectively closed Wednesday as frustration and traffic snarls mounted over orders by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott requiring extra inspections of commercial trucks as part of the Republican's sprawling border security operation.

Since Monday, Mexican truckers have blocked the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge in protest after Abbott last week directed state troopers to stop and inspect trucks coming into Texas. Unusually long backups — some lasting 12 hours or longer — have stacked up elsewhere along Texas' roughly 1,200-mile (1,930-kilometer) border.

The Mexican government said that Abbott's order was causing "serious damage" to trade, and that cross-border traffic had plummeted to a third of normal levels. On Wednesday, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki called Abbott's order "unnecessary and redundant."

The gridlock is the fallout of an initiative that Abbott says is needed to curb human trafficking and the flow of drugs. Abbott ordered the inspections as



**Truckers block the entrance into the Santa Teresa Port of Entry in Ciudad Juarez going into New Mexico on April 12, 2022.**

Associated Press

part of "unprecedented actions" he promised in response to the Biden administration winding down a public health law that has limited asylum-seekers in the name of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

But critics question how the inspections are meeting Abbott's objective, while business owners and experts complain of financial losses and warn U.S. grocery shoppers could notice shortages as soon as this week.

Frustration is also spreading within members of Abbott's own party: Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, a Republican, called the inspections a "catastrophic policy" that is forcing some trucks to reroute hundreds of miles to Arizona.

"I do describe it as a crisis, because this is not the normal way of doing business," said Hidalgo County

Judge Richard Cortez, whose county includes the bridge in Pharr. "You're talking about billions of dollars. When you stop that process, I mean, there are many, many, many, many people that are affected." The shutdowns and slowdowns have set off some of the widest backlash to date of Abbott's multibillion-dollar border operation, which the two-term governor has made the cornerstone of his administration. Texas has thousands of state troopers and National Guard members on the border and has converted prisons into jails for migrants arrested on state trespassing charges. Abbott warned last week that inspections would "dramatically slow" border traffic, but he hasn't addressed the backups or port shutdowns since then. The governor planned a press conference for Wednesday afternoon in Laredo.

In a video posted to Instagram, Nuevo Leon Gov. Samuel García said he planned to meet with Abbott on Wednesday and reassure him that "he has no reason to worry over drugs, nor migration." The

video showed aerial shots of the Colombia port of entry upriver from Nuevo Laredo and images of Mexico authorities inspecting trucks. He said Mexico would implement "specific checkpoints" on Thursday "to show that there is not a single trailer carrying any of the two issues that we know worry him." The disruptions at some of the world's busiest international trade ports could pose economic and political threats to Abbott, who is seeking a third term in November. Democrat Beto O'Rourke, the former presidential candidate who is running against Abbott, said during a stop in Pharr on Tuesday that the inspections were doing nothing to halt the flow of migrants and were worsening supply chain issues.

He was joined by Joe Arevalo, owner of Keystone Cold, a cold-storage warehouse on the border. He said that although Texas troopers have always inspected some trucks crossing the border "they've never, ever, ever held up a complete system or a complete supply chain." An estimated 3,000 trucks

cross the Pharr bridge on a normal day, according to the National Freight Transportation Chamber. The bridge is the largest land port for produce, such as leafy green vegetables, entering the U.S.

Mexico supplies about two-thirds of the produce sold in Texas. "We're living through a nightmare, and we're already suffering through a very delicate supply chain from the pandemic and to try to regrow the business," Arevalo said.

The additional inspections are conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which said that as of Monday, it had inspected more than 3,400 commercial vehicles and placed more than 800 "out of service" for violations that included defective brakes, fires and lighting. It made no mention of whether the inspections turned up migrants or drugs.

Jerry Pacheco, executive director of the International Business Accelerator and president of the Border Industrial Association, said the protests were costing businesses millions of dollars a day.

"It's going to affect all of us, all of us in the United States. Your car parts are going to be delivered late, your computer — if you ordered a Dell or HP tablet, those are going to be disrupted." Ed Anderson, a professor at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, compared the disruptions to those caused by February's trucker blockade in Canada that forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production.

Anderson said consumers would likely begin noticing the effects by the end of this week, if not sooner.

"Either prices are going to spike or shelves are going to be low," he said. □

**Due to the religious holidays, Aruba Today will not be published on (Good) Friday, April 14th, Saturday, April 15th, and Monday, April 18th, 2022. We will resume our regular printing schedule on Tuesday, April, 19th, 2022. We thank you for your support. Keep Safe!**



# CDC extends travel mask requirement to May 3 as COVID rises

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it is extending the nationwide mask requirement for airplanes and public transit for 15 days as it monitors an uptick in COVID-19 cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was extending the order, which was set to expire on April 18, until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant that is now responsible for the vast majority of cases in the U.S.

"In order to assess the potential impact the rise of cases has on severe disease, including hospitalizations and deaths, and health care system capacity, the CDC order will remain in place at this time," the agency said in a statement.

When the Transportation Security Administration, which enforces the rule for planes, buses, trains and transit hubs, extended the requirement last month, it said the CDC had been hoping to roll out a more flexible masking strategy that would have replaced the nationwide requirement.

The mask mandate is the most visible vestige of gov-



A person wearing a face masks to protect against the spread of the coronavirus walks in Philadelphia, Feb. 16, 2022.

ernment restrictions to control the pandemic, and possibly the most controversial. A surge of abusive and sometimes violent incidents on airplanes has been attributed mostly to disputes over mask-wearing. Airlines have lobbied for months to kill the requirement, arguing that effective air filters on modern planes make transmission of the virus during a flight highly unlikely. Republicans in Congress also fought to kill the man-

date.

Critics have seized on the fact that states have rolled back rules requiring masks in restaurants, stores and other indoor settings, and yet COVID-19 cases have fallen sharply since the omicron variant peaked in mid-January.

"It is very difficult to understand why masks are still required on airplanes, but not needed in crowded bars and restaurants; in packed sports arenas; in schools full

of children; or at large indoor political gatherings," Nicholas Calio, the CEO of industry trade group Airlines for America, said Wednesday in a letter to the heads of the CDC and the Health and Human Services Department. "Simply put, an extension of the mask mandate does not make sense." There has been a slight increase in cases in recent weeks, with daily confirmed cases nationwide rising from about 25,000 per day

to more than 30,000. More than 85% of those cases are the highly contagious BA.2 strain. Those figures could be an undercount since many people now test positive on at-home tests that are not reported to public health agencies. Severe illnesses and deaths tend to lag infections by several weeks. The CDC is awaiting indications of whether the increase in cases correlates to a rise in adverse outcomes before announcing a less restrictive mask policy for travel. A poll in mid-March by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that Americans are evenly divided over keeping the mask rule for transportation.

The poll found that 51% wanted the mandate to expire and 48% said it should remain in place — in effect, a tie, given the poll's margin of error. Democrats overwhelmingly supported the rule, and Republicans were even more united in opposing it. Vaccinated people and those with chronic health conditions favored keeping the rule, but by smaller margins.

Airlines imposed their own mask mandates in 2020, when the Trump administration declined to take action. □

Associated Press

# U.S. agencies: Industrial control system malware discovered

By FRANK BAJAK

**BOSTON (AP)** — Multiple U.S. government agencies issued a joint alert Wednesday warning of the discovery of malicious cyber tools created by unnamed advanced threat actors that they said were capable of gaining "full system access" to multiple industrial control systems.

The public alert from the Energy and Homeland Security Departments, the FBI and National Security Agency did not name the actors or offer details on the find.

But the CEO of one of the cybersecurity companies involved in the effort, Robert M. Lee of Dragos, says it has high confidence the malware was developed by a state actor and was

configured to initially target liquified natural gas and electric power sites in North America.

Lee would not name the state actor, referring questions to the U.S. government. Nor would he explain how the malware was discovered, other than to say it was caught "before an attack was attempted."

"We're actually one step ahead of the adversary. None of us want them to understand where they screwed up," said Lee. "Big win."

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which published the alert, did not immediately respond to a request for details on the discovery or threat actor.

The U.S. government has

warned critical infrastructure industries the gird for possible cyberattacks from Russia as retaliation for severe economic sanctions imposed on Moscow in response to its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Lee said the malware was "designed to be a framework to go after lots of different types of industries and be leveraged multiple times. Based on the configuration of it, the initial targets would be LNG and electric in North America." He said the malware, dubbed Pipedream, is only the seventh such malicious software to be identified that is designed to attack industrial control systems.

Lee said Dragos, which specializes in industrial control system protection,



A joint cybersecurity advisory released by the Department of Energy, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the National Security Agency and the FBI is photographed in Washington, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Associated Press

identified and analyzed its capability in early 2022 as part of its normal business research and in collaboration with partners.

He would offer no more

specifics The U.S. government alert offers thanks to Dragos, Mandiant, Microsoft, Palo Alto Networks and Schneider Electric for their contributions. □



# Man arrested in Brooklyn subway attack, charged with terror

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK, MICHAEL BALSAMO and JENNIFER PELTZ**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The man accused of shooting 10 people on a Brooklyn subway train was arrested Wednesday and charged with a federal terrorism offense after a daylong manhunt and a tipster's call led police to him on a Manhattan street.

Frank R. James, 62, was taken into custody about 30 hours after the carnage on a rush-hour train, which left five victims in critical condition and people around the city on edge.

"My fellow New Yorkers, we got him," Mayor Eric Adams said.

James was awaiting arraignment on a charge that pertains to terrorist or other violent attacks against mass transit systems and carries a sentence of up to life in prison, Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said.

In recent months, James railed in online videos about racism and violence in the U.S. and about his experiences with mental health care in New York City, and he had criticized Adams' policies on mental health and subway safety. But the motive for the subway attack remains unclear, and there is no indication that



**New York City Police and law enforcement officials lead subway shooting suspect Frank R. James, 62, center, away from a police station, in New York, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

James had ties to terror organizations, international or otherwise, Peace said. It wasn't immediately clear whether James, who is from New York but has lived recently in Philadelphia and Milwaukee, has an attorney or anyone else who can speak for him. A sign taped to the door of James' Milwaukee apartment asks that all mail be delivered to a post office box.

James, in a blue t-shirt and brown pants with his hands cuffed behind his back, didn't respond to reporters

shouting questions as he was walked from a police station to an unmarked police car a few hours after his arrest.

As terrified riders fled the attack, James apparently hopped another train — the same one many were steered to for safety, police said. He got out at the next station, disappearing into the nation's most populous city.

Police launched a massive effort to find him, releasing his name and issuing cell-phone alerts.

They got a tip Wednesday that he was in a McDonald's in Manhattan's East Village neighborhood, Chief of Department Kenneth Corey said. James was gone when officers arrived, but they soon spotted him on a busy corner nearby.

Four police cars zoomed around a corner, officers leaped out and, soon, a compliant James was in handcuffs as a crowd of people looked on, witness Aleksei Korobow said.

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said au-

thorities "were able to shrink his world quickly."

"There was nowhere left for him to run," she said.

The day before, James set off smoke grenades in a commuter-packed subway car and then fired at least 33 shots with a 9 mm handgun, police said.

Police Chief of Detectives James Essig said police were told that after James opened one of the smoke grenades, a rider asked, "What did you do?"

"Oops," James said, then went on to brandish his gun and open fire, according to a witness account.

At least a dozen people who escaped gunshot wounds were treated for smoke inhalation and other injuries.

The shooter left behind numerous clues, including the gun, ammunition magazines, a hatchet, smoke grenades, gasoline and the key to a U-Haul van. That key led investigators to James.

Federal investigators determined the gun used in the shooting was purchased by James at a pawn shop — a licensed firearms dealer — in the Columbus, Ohio, area in 2011.

The van was found, unoccupied, near a station where investigators determined the gunman had entered the subway system. □

# 23 injured in Texas storms; more tornadoes forecast in U.S.



**Michelle Light hugs her uncle Paul Bales on Wednesday April 13, 2022, a day after a tornado destroyed her home on FM 2843 and Cedar Valley Road near Salado, Texas.**

**Associated Press**

**SALADO, Texas (AP)** — Nearly two dozen people were injured when torna-

does swept through central Texas as part of a storm system that was expected

to spawn more twisters and damaging winds Wednesday.

The storms caused widespread damage Tuesday in Salado, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Austin. Bell County Judge David Blackburn said 23 people were injured, one of them critically. Twelve of the injured were taken to hospitals, Blackburn said.

"There's not much left," said Blackburn, the county's top elected official. "Large trees are uprooted and overturned and stripped. Buildings really reduced to rubble. ... Power lines, power poles, are scattered all over the place. It's pretty devastating."

Photos on social media showed grapefruit-size hail associated with that storm.

Tornadoes were also spotted Tuesday in Iowa, but there were no reports of serious injuries. In Lincoln, Nebraska, powerful wind gusts knocked down tree limbs and caused some roof damage. A possible tornado also caused damage in the small southern Minnesota town of Taopi near the state's border with Iowa.

Mower County Sheriff Steve Sandvik said dispatchers began getting calls from residents trapped in their damaged homes not long after a tornado warning siren sounded at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. There were no

reports of serious injuries. Weather service crews were assessing damage in the area Wednesday.

More tornadoes were in the forecast Wednesday for parts of the mid-South and in the Mississippi River Valley, the Storm Prediction Center said.

Hurricane-force winds, intense tornadoes and large hail were possible in Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, Louisiana and Alabama, forecasters said. Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, were among the cities that could see the worst weather Wednesday, the Storm Prediction Center said. □



# Israeli forces kill Palestinian as West Bank raids continue

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man during clashes on Wednesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as Israeli troops continued a days-long operation in the occupied West Bank in response to a spate of deadly attacks.

The death was the latest in a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has erupted as Muslims mark the holy month of Ramadan.

The Israeli military said its forces shot an armed suspect during clashes in which stones and firebombs were thrown at troops in the northern West Bank town of Beita. But Palestinian officials said Mohammed As-saf, 34, just happened to be driving through the area at the time.

Murad Shtaiwe, a Fatah party spokesman, said As-saf, a lawyer, was driving relatives to school. They passed through an area where clashes were taking place and As-saf was fatally shot, Shtaiwe said.

"What happened today is a new crime," he said.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said 11 others were injured as a result of the Israeli military's activities. The military said one sol-



Palestinian security officers carry the body of Muhammad Assaf, during his funeral in the West Bank village of Kufr Laqef, near Qalqiliya, Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Associated Press

dier was lightly wounded in the clashes and that it arrested 15 people in its raids Wednesday.

Israel has sent troops to comb through Palestinians cities and villages in recent days, looking for suspects or accomplices tied to recent Palestinian attacks on Israelis. Last week, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on a packed Tel Aviv bar, killing three and fleeing the scene, sparking an hours-long manhunt that culminated in his killing by police.

That assault, as well as three other attacks elsewhere in Israel in recent weeks, have killed 14 people, the deadliest outburst of bloodshed against Israelis in years.

On Wednesday, Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said the Arab state strongly condemned Israel's West Bank operations and what he called excessive force against Palestinians. Hafez urged in a statement for "containing such growing and accelerating developments,"

which could lead to further escalation and mutual violence.

The tensions have escalated as Muslims mark Ramadan, which this year converges with major Jewish and Christian holidays. In the coming week as Passover and Easter commence, tens of thousands from the three faiths are expected to stream into Jerusalem's Old City, the emotional heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a frequent flashpoint

for violence.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian militant groups called on Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Israel to camp out at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque this weekend.

After a meeting with Hamas's Gaza leader Yehiyeh Sinwar, the factions called for mass protests to break the Israeli restrictions recently imposed on the city of Jenin and said militants in Gaza were on alert "and ready to take the necessary decisions to protect our land, people, and holy sites."

Israel's government has sought to lower the flames by moving ahead on its plan to ease restrictions on Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the holy month. But, with two of the attackers in the recent violence from Jenin and the surrounding area, Israel has tightened restrictions on movement in and out of the city.

Jenin is considered a stronghold of Palestinian militants. Israeli forces often come under fire when operating in the area. Even the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank and coordinates with Israel on security matters, appears to have little control. □

# Dutch ABN AMRO bank apologizes for historic links to slavery

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Dutch bank ABN AMRO apologized Wednesday for historic links to the slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the involvement of one of the bank's predecessor institutions in "day-to-day business" of plantations.

The bank is the latest institution to apologize for historic ties to slavery, following the Bank of England in 2020 and the municipality of Amsterdam last year amid a global Black Lives Matter reckoning over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

ABN AMRO said in a statement that research it commissioned into its history

and that of other banks that were its direct predecessors uncovered a dark side.

The bank said the research revealed that "ABN AMRO's predecessor Hope & Co. played a pivotal role in the international slave economy of the 18th century. Not only were slavery-related operations a source of much of Hope & Co.'s profits, the firm was also actively involved in the day-to-day business of plantations." The plantations were in the Caribbean on Dutch colonies and other islands.

Another bank that went on to become part of ABN AMRO, Mees en Zoonen, "brokered insurance for slave ships and shipments

of goods harvested by enslaved persons," the bank said.

ABN AMRO CEO Robert Swaak said the bank has a proud history, but "we must also recognize that it has a darker side as well." He said ABN AMRO "apologizes for the past actions and activities of these predecessors and for the pain and suffering that they caused."

Lead researcher Pepijn Brandon of the International Institute of Social History that documented the history said it revealed "slavery-related operations formed a core part" off the business of Hope & Co., which was the largest financial and commercial company in



The logo of the state-owned ABN-AMRO bank sits on its head office in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jan. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century.

ABN AMRO said it had discussed the findings with representatives of the descendants of enslaved

people, who said they want to see "concrete measures to help improve the structural social disadvantages facing descendants of enslaved persons." □



## U.S. Navy says new task force to patrol Red Sea amid Yemen war

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The U.S. Navy said Wednesday it will begin a new task force with allied countries to patrol the Red Sea after a series of attacks attributed to Yemen's Houthi rebels in a waterway that's essential to global trade.

Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, who oversees the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet, declined four times to directly name the Iran-backed Houthis in his remarks to journalists announcing the task force. However, the Houthis have launched explosive-laden drone boats and mines into the waters of the Red Sea, which runs from Egypt's Suez Canal in the north, down through the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the south that separates Africa from the Arabian Peninsula. "In a macro sense, this region literally and figuratively fuels the world," Cooper said. "The area is so vast that we just can't do it alone so we're going to be at our best when we partner."

The Combined Maritime Forces command, a 34-nation organization which Cooper oversees from a base in Bahrain, already has three task forces that handle piracy and security issues both inside and out-



In this photo released by the U.S. Navy, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Hunter Pemberton assigned to the USS Cole takes part in an exercise on the Red Sea March 29, 2022.

Associated Press

side of the Persian Gulf. The new task force will be commissioned Sunday and will see the USS Mount Whitney, a Blue Ridge class amphibious command ship previously part of the Navy's African and European 6th Fleet, join it.

Cooper said he hoped the task force of two to eight ships at a time would target those smuggling coal, drugs, weapons and people in the waterway. Coal smuggling has been used by Somalia's al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab to fund

their attacks. Weapons linked by the Navy and analysts to Iran have been intercepted in the region as well, likely on their way to the Houthis. Yemen also sees migrants from Africa try to cross its war-torn nation to reach jobs in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

The Houthis seized Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in September 2014. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war on the side of Yemen's exiled government in March 2015. Years of inconclusive fighting has pushed the Arab

world's poorest nation to the brink of famine. A truce around the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan appears for now to be still holding.

The Red Sea is a vital shipping lane for both cargo and the global energy supplies, making any mining of the area a danger not only to Saudi Arabia but to the rest of the world. Mines can enter the water and then be carried away by the currents, which change by the season in the Red Sea. The Red Sea has been

mined previously. In 1984, some 19 ships reported striking mines there, with only one ever being recovered and disarmed, a U.N. panel said.

In Yemen's current war, Houthi missile fire in the Red Sea has come near a American warship in the past. In October 2016, the U.S. Navy said the USS Mason came under fire from two missiles launched out of Yemen. Neither reached the warship, though the U.S. retaliated with Tomahawk cruise missile strikes on three coastal radar sites in Houthi-controlled territory.

The week before, the Emirati vessel SWIFT-1 came under Houthi missile attack. The Emirati government asserted the SWIFT-1 at the time carried humanitarian aid; U.N. experts later said of the claim that they were "unconvinced of its veracity." The vessel had been sailing back and forth in the Red Sea between an Emirati troop base in Eritrea and Yemen.

In April 2021, an Iranian cargo ship that is said to serve as a floating base for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard forces came under attack in the Red Sea — likely part of a wider shadow war between Israel and Tehran. □

## Union: El Salvador police pressured to meet arrest quotas



An elderly woman watches as soldiers patrol in the San Jose del Pino Community in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, during the government's unprecedented crackdown on gangs.

Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** — Some National Ci-

vilian Police commanders in El Salvador have been

pressuring their officers to meet daily arrest quotas as part of the government's crackdown on street gangs that have yielded more than 10,000 arrests, a police union said Tuesday.

Marvin Reyes, representative of the Salvadoran Police Workers Union, said the actions of some police officials would result in arbitrary arrests. He said commanders are telling officers to give "false statements" against some who have been arrested, but who have nothing to do with gangs. Some officers were threatened with transfers if they didn't follow orders, he said. On March 26, authorities reported 62 killings across El Salvador that they

attributed to the country's powerful street gangs. President Nayib Bukele requested and received from congress a state of emergency that allows police to make arrests without explaining the reason, not provide access to a lawyer and hold suspects for 15 days without charge. The congress has since passed additional measures, including increasing prison sentences. In Cinquera, a remote town in central El Salvador of some 1,000 residents without a known gang presence, police were told to make 30 arrests, Reyes said. "They're doing it, knowing perfectly well that there are no gangs in Cinquera," he said.

The union has made formal complaints hoping to stop the "irregularities," he said. Rank-and-file police officers agree with Bukele's decision to pursue the gangs, which have terrorized communities for years, but "this situation with the state of emergency shouldn't lend itself to abuses like the ones we're exposing," Reyes said. Elsewhere, police are entering communities and arresting gang members, he said, but "the pressure from some bosses has generated fickleness in taking people who have nothing to do with gangs."

Bukele said recently that only 1% of those arrested were not tied to gangs and would be released. □





**Pinchos Grill & Bar**

Open Everyday 5PM - 11PM

Spectacular setting - all tables over the water

Bar snacks & drinks available

Reservations recommended

583-2666

www.pinchosaruba.com

reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Live Music Fri - Sat & Sun

Follow Us

## Western pressure mounts on Solomons to quash pact with China



A display case of photos is seen outside the Chinese Embassy in Honiara, Solomon Islands, April 2, 2022.

Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia: (AP)**

— Australia and the United States are stepping up diplomatic outreach to the Solomon Islands after China signed a security deal with the South Pacific island nation that could lead to Beijing establishing a military presence there.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Wednesday that his minister for International Development and the Pacific, Zed Seselja, had flown to the Solomon Islands the day before for talks with Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on the April 1 security pact the country agreed to with China.

Seselja said he had asked Sogavare to abandon the Chinese agreement.

"We have asked Solomon Islands respectfully to consider not signing the agreement and to consult the Pacific family in the spirit of regional openness and transparency, consistent with our region's security frameworks," Seselja said in a statement.

The trip came the same day that U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman spoke with Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele about Washington's plan to re-open an embassy in the capital, Honiara.

The announcement of re-opening the embassy, which has been closed since 1993, came in February before the security pact came to light, but amid already growing concerns about Chinese influence in the strategically important country.

A Chinese military presence in the Solomon Islands would put it not only on the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand but also in close proximity to Guam, with its massive U.S. military bases.

At the time he announced the embassy's reopening, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. was seeking to increase its influence in the Solomon Islands before China becomes "strongly embedded." State Department spokesman Ned Price said the call between Sherman and Manele touched on "our joint efforts to broaden and deepen engagement between our countries," in addition to the embassy plans, but gave no further details.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian defended Beijing's cooperation with the Solomons as being based on "the principle of mutual respect and mutual benefit" and in line with international law and

international practice.

"It is conducive to the social stability and lasting peace and safety of Solomon Islands and will help promote peace, stability and development of Solomon Islands and the rest of South Pacific region," Zhao told reporters Wednesday at a daily briefing.

"The security cooperation between China and the Solomon Islands does not target any third party or

work in opposition to the Solomon Islands' cooperation with other countries, but will complement the exiting regional cooperation mechanism in a positive way," he said.

He added that other countries "should view this in an objective and reasonable manner, respect the sovereignty and independent decision of China and the Solomon Islands, avoid provoking confrontation and

creating division in the region, and do something conducive to regional stability and development."

According to a draft of the agreement, which was leaked online, Chinese warships could stop in the Solomons for "logistical replenishment" and China could send police, military personnel and other armed forces to the Solomons "to assist in maintaining social order." □



**BACK TO BACK EASTER BINGO!**

**EASTER BINGO**

April 17 & 18 | 1pm

**\$26,721\*** **PROGRESSIVE\***

Progressive within 51 Calls: **\$500**  
Progressive within 52 Calls: **\$300**  
Progressive within 53+ Calls: **\$200**

**Special Door Prizes | 8 Games**

**\$8.50 for 4 Cards**

**\$2,000 in Total Payouts!**

**Double your prize with POWERBALL!™**

**BINGO Games and Prizes**


Game 1	Letter X	\$75
Game 2	Large Diamonds	\$75
Game 3	Lucky 7	\$100
Game 4	Letter H	\$100
30 Minute Break / Pick 5 Winners		
Game 5	+ or Cross	\$150
Game 6	Postage Stamps	\$200
Game 7	Letter T	\$300
Game 8	Full Card	\$1,000

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irawsquid Blvd #47  
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.






**Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center**

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**

**NAAT (Abott ID):  
Result in 30 minutes!**

**PCR / Antigen Test  
SAME DAY RESULT!**



**MedCare Clinic**

**Tel: (+297) 280-0630**

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

## Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation:

Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, re-



quests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

### Make your reservation today at:

info@papillonaruba.com  
or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400  
Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm  
Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm  
For all menus and specials visit the website: [www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com). □





## BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

**BONUS**  
**BINGO**  
**THURSDAY!**

Bonus 4-Card BINGO  
starting at 1pm!  
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play  
**\$1,500 in Cash Prizes**  
**SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME**  
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111  
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our  
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you  
purchase your card before noon!

## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,  
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar  
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café  
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood  
Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## Beach Clean organized by Aruba One Happy Island Lions Club

ORANJESTAD - This past Saturday, some of the members of Aruba One Happy Island Lions Club set out in the morning to collect trash on Aruba's beaches.

This time the beach clean-up was organized at the

beach known as Bachelors Beach/Plastic Beach at Sero Colorado where they tried to leave the beach as plastic free as possible.

Lions Club organizes events worldwide that have to do with a variety of topics,

namely Diabetes, Vision, Cancer in kids, Hunger and Environment. Locally, aside from organizing beach clean ups frequently, they also organize projects like gardening and planting trees for example. □



## Honoring of loyal visitors at Divi All Inclusive

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees are: Rick and Liza Piazza from Massachusetts, USA, who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive years mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for its Delicious food, beautiful beaches and friendly people of the Island.

Heyliger together with the representatives of Divi All Inclusive presented the certificates to the honorees and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

## Local soccer team Deportivo Nacional is in Puerto Rico!



**Deportivo Nacional will be in Puerto Rico to participate in the Concacaf Caribbean club shield. Nacional became the champ and will have to represent Aruba in the Shield Cup.**

Nacional worked hard with dedication and discipline for this tourney. Leonardo Pullido sadly could

not travel with the team for reasons related to VISA, however, the team recruited Edward Clarissa from The Netherlands who will support the team in this tourney.

Friday will be Nacional's first game against Inter Moengotapoe (Suriname) and Sunday they will be playing against Golden

Lion (Martinique).

Nacional nos a compromete a prepara duro p'e torneo aki. Leonardo Pullido Lastimamente no por biaha cu e ekipo pa motibo di VISA, esey sigur ta un mal noticia, pero Nacional a busca Edward Clarissa for di Hulanda pa asina renforza ekipo Nacional pe torneo aki. □



## AHATA: In March Aruba experienced an 83% recovery in hotel occupancy

Oranjestad - The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has published the latest hotel performance data reporting that in March 2022 Aruba hotels experienced a 74% average occupancy rate.

### March 2022

Occupancy: The occupancy rate was 74%, which is 17% lower than in March 2019.

ADR: In comparison to 2019, the average daily rate (for occupied rooms) increased by 4% to \$353.31. RevPAR: The revenue per available room was \$261.68, which is an 87% recovery compared to 2019.

### Timeshare

OCCUPANCY FORECAST:

	Occupancy Forecast	Recovery compared to 2019
April	79%	96%
May	79%	98%
June	78%	94%
2022	74%	87%

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced a 90% occupancy rate in March, and project an average occupancy of 87% for April 2022.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba,

Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club.



## Customs gives travelers some tips for the Easter vacation

ORANJESTAD - The Customs department gives travelers some tips during this Easter vacation.

### Temporary Import/Export of Goods

The Customs Department recommends travelers register their items, like laptops, cellphones, or tablets at their offices located at Aerocargo or the airport. The registration is only for products for which they have no receipts or proofs of purchase in Aruba or abroad and that the import duties are paid.

The form is proof that the person left Aruba with these products and that you do not have to pay import duties when you return. Please fill out this form beforehand. Remember that you have to register these products before traveling at the Customs section at Aerocargo or at the airport for this form to be valid.

### Passenger luggage exemption

#### Items for personal use:

Items valued up to Afl.400,00 in total per traveler. If you import an article with an invoice value of more than Afl. 400,00, you will not qualify for an exemption. In this case, no deduction of the Afl. 400,00 will be granted.

#### The tax exoneration is limited to certain products:

200 cigarettes (1 carton), 25 cigars, 50 cigarillos, or 250 grams of tobacco products.

1 liter distilled alcohol like rum or whisky, or 2,25 liters of wine or 3 liters of beer

The tax exemption does not apply on items not mentioned under 1 and 2, and Tax and Excise Duty will be charged.

To be eligible for the tax exemption, each traveler should meet the following requirements:

The traveler should be 16 years and older;

The purchased items should be for personal consumption;

Commercial products do not qualify for the tax exemption.

#### Verbal declaration

For personal items, the passenger must make a verbal declaration at the customs office located in the arrival hall when returning to Aruba. However, it is not possible for commercial products or parcels.

Declarations of commercial products or parcels should be made at a customs broker and showing proof of registration at the Aruba Chamber of Commerce and the company's fiscal number to receive approval to import without manifest (I2M declaration).

The Aruba Customs reminds travelers to keep all their receipts to calculate the exact value of the items bought. Failing to show a receipt for items will result in the Custom agent finding the item's price online regardless of any discounted price.

The Aruba Customs also reminds travelers to keep the exoneration information in mind as this will come in handy when returning to Aruba with purchased items. Should you surpass the limited amount of Awg. 400,00 per traveler, please proceed directly to the Custom office to declare your items instead of holding up the lines at the baggage checkpoints.

For more information, please visit [www.douane.aw](http://www.douane.aw), send an email to [info@douane.aw](mailto:info@douane.aw) or call +297 523-8888. □

## AN EASTER BRUNCH WITH ATTITUDE



### FOR THOSE WHO PREFER BUBBLY TO BUNNIES.

This Easter Sunday, forget hidden eggs and hollow chocolate bunnies and come enjoy something sexier. At L.G. Smith's, you'll discover a delicious menu of brunch favorites, a live DJ and an atmosphere unlike any Easter you've ever seen. The food, drinks and fun are all never-ending, so come indulge and enjoy.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH 11am-2:30pm

**\$65**  
plus a 15%  
service charge.

Includes all-you-can-eat a la carte  
brunch, welcome drink & endless  
mimosas.



LOCATED NEXT TO WIND CREEK CRYSTAL CASINO.

For more information, or to make a reservation, contact our  
Navigator at 523.6195 or visit [lgsmiths.com](http://lgsmiths.com).



# How to make summer 2022 travel plans that actually happen

By **SAM KEMMIS** of **Nerd-Wallet**

After two years of cancellations, deferments and marathon sessions with airline customer service, many travelers are hoping to book summer trips that actually pan out this year. "I had the month of May 2020 completely off work," says Katharine Ng, an engineering program manager in Los Angeles. Ng planned to visit Europe and Morocco but had to cancel and rebook for the following year, 2021. Those new plans were eventually scuttled because she wasn't yet fully vaccinated by May, and travel restrictions got in the way.

"Thankfully, canceling the trips was easy because of the COVID cancellation policies," Ng says. Yet while getting a refund was nice, it didn't scratch the itch for taking an actual vacation. Many travelers, twice bitten by summer plans gone awry, remain shy of making them again this year. Even the experts have given up trying to predict what twists the pandemic will take next. But regardless of what happens, travelers can maximize their chances of summer travel success with a few simple steps.

## BOOK FLIGHTS SOON

Travel isn't just coming back. It's roaring back. "We're already at 2019 prices for airfare," says Adit Damodaran, economist at Hopper, a travel booking app that tracks airfare trends. "We've already ex-



A Delta Airlines aircraft takes off as passengers await the boarding process, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ceeded our initial forecast for prices."

Prices are rising in part because of increased consumer demand, but volatile oil prices may be playing an even bigger role. When the Ukraine conflict caused some travelers to pull back on Europe travel, prices didn't follow suit.

"In Europe, demand is decreasing, but prices haven't dropped with it," Damodaran says. "In fact, they have increased. Airlines could be preemptively adjusting fares for fuel price changes."

Regardless of the cause, airfare costs are unlikely to drop significantly before peak summer travel. So booking sooner rather than later might help you avoid getting priced out of this

travel season.

## KEEP IT FLEXIBLE

The pandemic has ushered in one consumer-friendly change: Most airlines and hotels now offer more flexible booking options. And if the last two years have taught us anything, it's that no trip, however well planned, is safe from disruption.

The best way to find flexible booking options depends on a host of factors, but a few simple rules apply.

— Avoid basic economy airfare as it doesn't allow changes or cancellations.

— Choose hotel rooms with free cancellation. Sometimes these rates are slightly higher than their nonrefundable counterparts.

— Read vacation rental policies carefully. Services

like Airbnb and Vrbo generally let hosts choose the cancellation policy.

Data from Hopper shows that the number of basic economy bookings made on its platforms dropped significantly in 2021 after airlines introduced more flexible options for other fares. Now, these bottom-of-the-barrel fares make up only 20% of total bookings compared with nearly 40% before the industry change.

## CHOOSE DESTINATIONS WISELY

Even if COVID-19 cases drop throughout the spring and summer, it could be some time before all international travel restrictions follow suit.

"I was planning a trip to South Korea but I couldn't

deal with a seven-day hotel quarantine," says Ng, citing the country's strictly enforced rules. Ng opted to visit Europe this summer, where such restrictions aren't currently in place. She feels more confident that COVID-related rules won't suddenly change right before or, worse, during her trip.

When choosing a destination, start with the countries that have restrictions that match your risk tolerance and work backward.

Of course, these restrictions can be avoided by sticking to domestic travel, but many travelers are eager to head abroad.

## MAKE A BACKUP PLAN — OR SEVERAL

Even with all these precautions in place, anything can happen. Another surge, variant or military conflict could upend even the best-laid plans, which is why it's important to make a backup.

First, after planning your main trip, consider making a few fully refundable bookings for a second, separate trip. These can be a hedge to ensure you don't have to book everything last minute during peak season. Just don't book airfare unless it is truly refundable — most main cabin fares are refunded as vouchers with the same airline, which aren't as good as cash.

Second, sketch out an idea for a third trip, with the intention to book it at the last minute if original plans fall through. □

# Amazon adds 5% 'fuel and inflation surcharge' to seller fees

Associated Press

Amazon is taking a step to offset its rising costs, announcing Wednesday it will add a 5% "fuel and inflation surcharge" to fees it charges third-party sellers who use the e-commerce giant's fulfillment services. The Seattle-based company said on its website that the added fees, which take effect April 28, are "subject to change" and will apply to both apparel and non-apparel items.

Amazon didn't immediately respond to a request

for further details on the move. But in a notice sent to sellers Wednesday, the company said its costs had gone up since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic due to increases in hourly wages, the hiring of workers and construction of more warehouses.

It said it had absorbed costs whenever possible, and only increased fees to address permanent costs and to be competitive with other providers. Amazon competitors FedEx and UPS both have fuel surcharges.

"In 2022, we expected a return to normalcy as COVID-19 restrictions around the world eased, but fuel and inflation have presented further challenges," the company said in the notice. The latest fee hike follows one announced in November and which went into effect in January.

Federal data released Tuesday showed inflation jumped 8.5% in March, its fastest pace in more than 40 years. Gasoline prices have rocketed 48% in the past 12 months. □



The company logo graces one of the doors of a delivery van for Amazon Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, in Denver.

Associated Press



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Calendar

1 Stylish entry

5 Wrong 44 "Alfie"

10 Circle star

spokes 45 Hardly

12 Astronomer's wordy

find 46 El —

13 Labor DOWN

group 1 Cake bit

14 Full of 2 Asian

energy capital

15 Cattle call 3 Block-

16 Cheep head

18 Resentful 4 AFL

20 Verb for affiliate

you 5 Purple

21 Methods berry

23 Eastern 6 Shed

path feathers

24 Revolver, 7 Copy

perhaps 8 Quite a

26 Third few

person

28 Pricing

word

29 Fill up

31 LAPD

alert

32 Roadside

eyesore

36 Animal,

informally

39 Marrying

words

40 News-

caster

Couric

41 Ready for

sleep



Yesterday's answer

9 Sound 30 Hearty

system quaff

11 Distraught 33 Leg bone

17 Sardonic 34 Perfect

19 Binary places

base 35 Western

22 Like Swift contest

stories 37 Mint

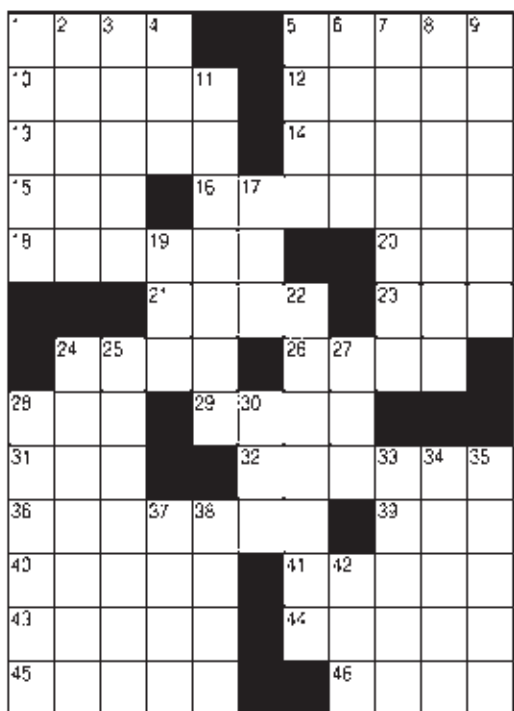
24 Lead containers

astray 38 Head, to

25 Satellite Henri

27 Track act

28 Bundle 42 Snooze



4-14

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

G U B G N Q G V R U R E B N

Y V F F A E R Q V E Q G U R

LUAEGUY. — QNLCJQAJR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN THE SPRING, AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE DIRT. MARGARET ATWOOD

## Psaki rumors, Mulvaney hire at CBS News trouble journalists



White House press secretary Jen Psaki speaks during a press briefing at the White House in Washington on March 9, 2022, left, and then White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney addresses the media at the White House on Oct. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The hiring of non-journalists as contributors to television news organizations isn't new. Far less common is seeing pushback to such decisions from journalists working there, as has happened recently at CBS and NBC News.

Discontent emerged over CBS' hiring of former Trump administration official Mick Mulvaney as a commentator and discussions about current White House press secretary Jen Psaki working at MSNBC when her time in the Biden administration is through.

In both cases, journalists have been quiet publicly about their concerns over the decisions. Because of concern about Psaki which has raised ethical issues for the press secretary NBC News President Noah Oppenheim was compelled to address the discussions in a phone meeting with Washington-based staff, first reported by CNN.

While both cases are different, the fact that these internal complaints surfaced

illustrates some of the pressures many journalists feel under, said Mark Whitaker, a former executive at NBC News, CNN and Newsweek. They already work in a hyper-partisan time and face accusations of promoting "fake news," he said.

"There's a feeling of 'this just makes our job harder when we're under attack anyway,'" Whitaker said. Each case is more complex than rubbing elbows at the water cooler with a partisan.

Neither MSNBC nor Psaki have publicly confirmed their talks about a role there. MSNBC has already hired Symone Sanders, former chief spokeswoman for Vice President Kamala Harris, for a job that begins in May. NBC News has taken pains to draw distinctions between its journalists and MSNBC, which has beefed up its opinion programming, although that's awkward when journalists like Andrea Mitchell and Chuck Todd both have shows on the cable network.

At least until the situation becomes clearer, NBC News journalists are put in the uncomfortable position of having professional contact with someone who may soon become a colleague.

NBC White House correspondent Kristen Welker asked Psaki about her status at a recent White House briefing, saying "is it ethical for you to keep conducting this job while negotiating with a media outlet?"

Without confirming or denying those talks, Psaki said she had already gone "over and above" stringent ethical requirements. Welker followed up twice, asking "how can you be an effective briefer if you do, in fact, have plans to join a media outlet?"

Psaki said she has taken steps to make sure there is no conflict. While the situation is still in flux, CNN reported that she is not expected to do any on-camera interviews with NBC News or MSNBC personnel, and won't be involved in decisions about booking administration officials on the networks.

Oppenheim declined an opportunity to discuss the issue, through a spokesman. CBS News said Mulvaney's signing was part of the network's buildup of its roster of contributors in advance of the 2022 midterm and 2024 presidential elections. □

### Blue residences

#### Eagle Beach

2 BR, 2 bath

Ocean view

Price: \$585K

Call: 011-297-6301307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

215245

### Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);

Week 5/1315 (19k);

Week 8/1113 (18k);

Week 8/1409 (18k);

Week 9/1218 (16k);

Week 10/1207 (16k);

Week 13/1509 (13k);

Week 14/1308 (13k);

Week 15/1217 (10k).

CDMOwner@gmail.com

U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

**+297 565-9535**

**WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM**

24/7



# Classifieds

**HTTA**  
are you Looking to Sell,  
your Time Share in Aruba?  
Contact us!  
Local experts now for 37 years  
Giving wonderful service in a  
wonderful way  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com  
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

**HTTA**  
**For our client,**  
We are looking to purchase  
Weeks at the Marriott Surf Club  
and Ocean club  
All size and view and season  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
Eagle Beach  
1 BR 2bath WK#13 Room #763  
Pool /ocean View  
27 weeks remain  
Price :\$14K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Renaissance ocean suite**  
Private island  
1BR deluxe WK #10 and 11  
Room #2353 ocean front  
Price :\$10K each  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Renaissance ocean suite**  
Private island  
1 BR WK 14 room#2348  
Ocean Front \$9K  
1 BR WK 14 room #2521  
Pool /ocean View \$8K  
1 BR WK 14 room #2541  
Pool /ocean View \$8K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Renaissance ocean suite**  
Private island  
1BR WK 15 room #2111  
Ground floor pool /ocean view  
1BR WK #14 room #2336  
Harbor /ocean view  
Price :8K each  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Renaissance ocean suite**  
Private island  
1BR WK 13 room #2524  
Harbor view \$8K  
1BR WK 14 room #2539  
Pool /ocean View \$8K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Divi Village**  
Eagle Beach  
Studio WK 13 room #6206  
Studio WK 14 room #6205  
20 weeks remain each  
Price :\$7K each  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Dutch Village**  
Eagle Beach  
Studio WK 12 room #33  
30 weeks remain  
Price :\$9 K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Divi Village**  
Eagle Beach  
2 BR 2bath week 13  
Room#3512  
29 weeks remain all accelerated  
Expire :2036  
Price :10 K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Divi Village**  
Eagle Beach  
1 BR floating weeks  
Platinum F-building  
14 weeks remain  
Price :6K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Marriott Ocean Club**  
Palm Beach  
2 BR platinum ocean view  
Price :\$22K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Tierra Del Sol**  
24 hours security  
3BR with 2 1/2 bath  
Ocean view with garage  
Price :\$475K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Le Vent**  
Eagle Beach  
3BR, 3bath  
Ground floor \$870K  
2 BR, 2 bath  
Ground floor \$675K  
2 BR, 2bath  
5th floor \$990K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**Azure beach residences**  
**Eagle beach**  
3 BR, 3 bath  
Pool /ocean View  
Price :\$1, 050,000  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**Blue residences**  
**Eagle Beach**  
2 BR, 2bath  
Beach view  
Price :\$699K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**Acqua condominium Aruba**  
Palm Beach  
2 BR, 2 bath  
Pool /view  
Price :\$650 K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**Pearl Aruba condos**  
Eagle beach  
2 BR, 2 bath  
Pool /ocean View  
Price :\$369K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**House for sale**  
San Minquel noord  
3 bedroom 2bath  
With pool 5 min drive to  
Best beaches  
Price :\$475K  
Call :0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**House for sale**  
Savaneta near zeerover  
3 BR, 2 bath on a property land  
5 min walk from the water  
Price :\$220K  
Call:0 11-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

**HTTA**  
**Casa Del Mar**  
Eagle Beach  
2 BR, 2 bath week12 \$17K  
Room #1505 pool /ocean view  
1 BR week12 room #1328 \$7K  
Call:011-297-6301307  
johnnpaesch@gmail.com



**Editor**  
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Assistant Director**  
Xiomara Arends

**Editors**  
Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks

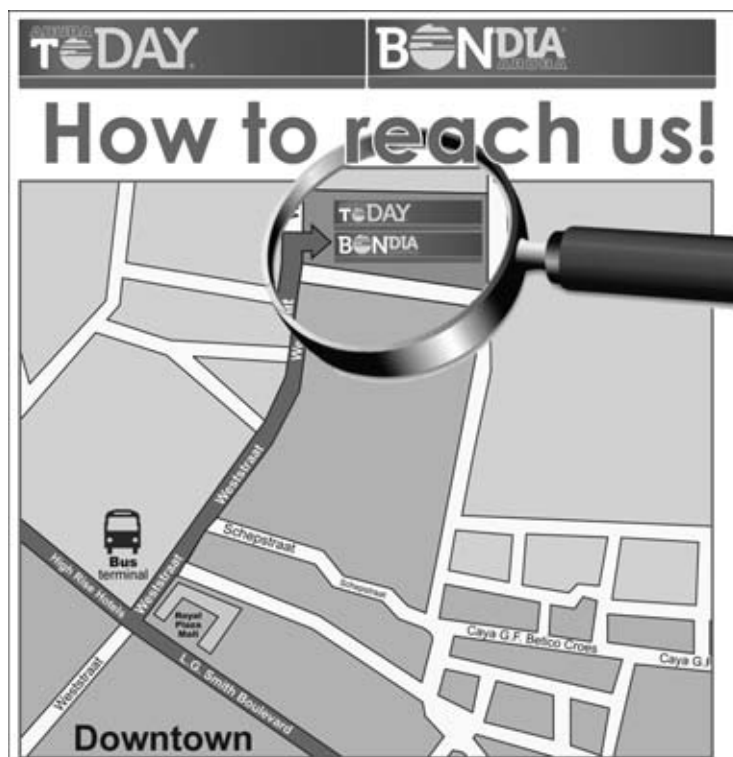
**Sales**  
Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**  
classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**  
accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**  
Juan Luis Pinto  
**Columnists**  
Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**  
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**  
Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**  
DakotaTel. 588 7364  
**San Nicolas:**  
Seroe Preto Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

**Dental Clinic 587 9850**  
**Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002**  
**Urgent Care 586 0448**  
**Walk-In Doctor's Clinic**  
**+297 588 0539**

### EMERGENCY

<b>Police</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Oranjestad</b>	<b>527 3140</b>
<b>Noord</b>	<b>527 3200</b>
<b>Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
<b>San Nicolas</b>	<b>584 5000</b>
<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
<b>Ambulancia</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Red Cross</b>	<b>582 2219</b>

### TAXI SERVICES

<b>Taxi Tas</b>	<b>587 5900</b>
<b>Prof. Taxi</b>	<b>588 0035</b>
<b>Taxi D.T.S.</b>	<b>587 2300</b>
<b>Taxi Serv. Aruba</b>	<b>583 3232</b>
<b>A1 Taxi Serv.</b>	<b>280 2828</b>

### TRAVEL INFO

<b>Aruba Airport</b>	<b>524 2424</b>
<b>American Airlines</b>	<b>582 2700</b>
<b>Avianca</b>	<b>588 0059</b>
<b>Jet Blue</b>	<b>588 2244</b>
<b>Surinam</b>	<b>582 7896</b>

### AID FOUNDATIONS

**FAVI- Visually Impaired**  
Tel. 582 5051

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Tel. 736 2952

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Tel. 583 8989

**Fundacion Contra Violencia**  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

**Centre for Diabetes**  
Tel. 524 8888

**Child Abuse Prevention**  
Tel. 582 4433

**Quota Club** Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118





# Saban: Current state of college football not 'sustainable'

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

**AP College Football Writer  
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)** —

Nick Saban's willingness to adapt and often be a catalyst for change in college football, both on the field and off, has propelled Alabama to six national championships in 13 seasons.

The 70-year-old coach is confident his program will continue to thrive during this new era of college athletics, with players having more opportunities to earn money than ever before and more power to determine where they play.

But the current state of college football has Saban concerned.

"I don't think what we're doing right now is a sustainable model," Saban told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

That's a common theme among coaches these days, with Clemson's Dabo Swinney and Southern California's Lincoln Riley among the most prominent who have echoed Saban's sentiments. The combination of empowered athletes and easily accessible paydays is changing the way coaches go about their business.

The uncertainty comes with the NCAA in a weakened state following last year's Supreme Court loss and in the midst of a dramatic restructuring. Schools and the NCAA itself would prefer federal legislation to regulate how athletes are compensated for their names, images and likenesses, but when that might come and in what form is unknown.

That has led to concerns about vast sums of money flowing in and around college athletics, including brazen entities called collectives put together by well-heeled donors whose donations have traditionally funded everything from lavish facilities to multimillion-dollar buyouts of fired coaches around Power Five conferences.

"The concept of name, image and likeness was for players to be able to use their name, image and likeness to create opportunities for themselves. That's what



**Alabama coach Nick Saban watches players warm up for the College Football Playoff championship NCAA football game against Georgia on Jan. 10, 2022, in Indianapolis.**

**Associated Press**

it was," Saban said. "So last year on our team, our guys probably made as much or more than anybody in the country."

Paying a player to attend a particular school is still a violation of NCAA rules, but NIL deals have quickly become intertwined with recruiting — both high school prospects and the growing number of college transfers.

"But that creates a situation where you can basically buy players," Saban said. "You can do it in recruiting. I mean, if that's what we want college football to be, I don't know. And you can also get players to get in the transfer portal to see if they can get more someplace else than they can get at your place."

Riley told reporters last week NIL has "completely changed" recruiting.

"I think that anybody that cares about college football is not real pleased with that because that wasn't the intention," said Riley, who is in his first season at Southern California after five years at Oklahoma. "And I'm sure, at some

point, there is going to be a market correction if you will, with recruiting."

What exactly is going on with recruiting and NIL is hard to know for sure because it is mostly happening outside the purview of schools and the NCAA between parties with no obligation to publicly disclose deals.

A NIL contract drawn up for an unidentified blue-chip recruit reportedly could be worth up to \$8 million. Earlier this year, Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher was angered by rumors the Aggies used millions in NIL money to sign the nation's consensus No. 1 recruiting class for 2022.

Mississippi coach Lane Kiffin is among those who worry about conflicts in recruiting between coaches and emboldened boosters,

"I think that there's going to start being issues potentially of donors and collective groups saying they want Player A from their area. And the coaching staff wants Player B," Kiffin told AP.

Swinney told ESPN major college football needs a "complete blowup" that

might result in something that looks more like professional football.

"I think you'll have 40 or 50 teams and a commissioner and here are the rules," he said.

Saban said he is not against the shift toward players being compensated and given more freedom to switch teams.

"We now have an NFL model with no contracts, but everybody has free agency," said Saban, echoing a comparison Kiffin has made.

"It's fine for players to get money. I'm all for that. I'm not against that. But there also has to be some responsibility on both ends, which you could call a contract. So that you have an opportunity to develop people in a way that's going to help them be successful," Saban said.

Saban, the highest-paid coach in college football with a salary of nearly \$10 million last season, said the balance of power in the sport could tip toward the schools with the wealthiest collectives.

"So there's going to have to

be some changes implemented, some kind of way to still create a level playing field," he said. "And there is no salary cap. So whatever school decides they want to pay the most, they have the best chance to have the best team. And that's never been college football, either."

Saban would prefer Alabama guarantee a set amount of money for every player who plays football for the Crimson Tide.

"We give everybody the same medical care, academic support, food service. Same scholarship. So if we're going to do this, then everybody is going to benefit equally. I'm not going to create a caste system on our team," Saban said.

LSU coach Brian Kelly supports a similar model, with players agreeing to sign over certain NIL rights for a base amount of compensation along with the ability for a school to help boost an individual's brand.

"And we've got the best NFT," Kelly added, referring to the popular digital collectors' items. "Who can't sell Mike the Tiger?"

Saban isn't worried about the changing landscape derailing his dynasty. Alabama had more players on NFL rosters (53) than any school at the beginning of last season. The Tide's track record of personal and professional development should remain attractive to top players, though maybe not quite as many as in the past.

Saban is OK with that.

"I know we have to adapt to that," Saban said. "You're going to have kids out there that say, 'Well, I can get a better deal going someplace else,' and they'll go there. But you're also going to have people that see the light and say, 'Yeah, they've got a good history of developing players. They got a good history of developing people, they got a great graduation rate and that value is more important.'"

"And they're distributing money to everybody in the organization." □



# Mayfield: Browns 'disrespected,' deceived him about future

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Baker Mayfield feels the Cleveland Browns deceived him about their offseason plans, which resulted in them trading for Deshaun Watson.

Speaking on a podcast, Mayfield, whose tumultuous four-year run as Cleveland's quarterback essentially ended when the team acquired Watson in a stunning deal last month with the Houston Texans, said the team was not up-front with him.

"I feel disrespected 100% because I was told one thing and they completely did another," Mayfield said in an appearance on the "Ya Never Know" podcast, which was taped last week. Mayfield struggled while playing most of last season with a torn labrum in his left, non-throwing shoulder, which he injured in Week 2. Cleveland fell way short of expectations, finished 8-9 and missed the playoffs after ending a long postseason drought the previous season.

He underwent surgery right after the season and Browns general manager Andrew Berry publicly indicated the team was planning to bring Mayfield back as the starter while privately investigating whether to add Watson, accused by two dozen massage therapists in Texas of sexual assault and harassment.

When Mayfield learned of the Browns' interest, he demanded a trade. Watson, who initially turned down Cleveland, then changed his mind, waived his no-trade clause and signed a record-setting \$230 million fully guaranteed contract. While still upset over the way it was handled, Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick in 2018, said he's at peace with his time with the Browns.

"I really, truly honestly have no regrets of my time in Cleveland of what I tried to give that place," he said. "True Clevelanders and true Browns fans know that, and that's why I can walk away from the whole situation feeling like I did it."

Mayfield remains on Cleve-

land's roster as the team tries to work out a trade. The tricky part for the Browns is that he's due to make \$18.8 million, and there aren't many teams willing to take on that salary.

As his performances worsened last season, the 26-year-old Mayfield acknowledged he spent too much time caring about how he was being treated. He said a break from social media helped, but it was hard to block out everything.

Mayfield was booed at FirstEnergy Stadium during a win over Detroit in Week 11 and skipped his post-game news conference.

"When people are so critical of it," Mayfield said, "I would love to show up at somebody's cubicle and



Cleveland Browns' Baker Mayfield warms up before an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

just boo the (crap) out of them and watch them crumble. I'd be lying to you if I didn't say that I get caught up in all the negativity and stuff during the year last year."

Mayfield reflected on his time with the Browns during the 90-minute interview, his first since the Watson deal was completed.

He feels liberated being out of Cleveland.

"I got my taste of it because I've had four different head coaches in four years, a bunch of different coordinators. I've had the highs and they always come back," he said. "I had great times my rookie year. I didn't start in the beginning. I came in and had fun in the back half of the year. 2019 sucked. 2020 was great, made the playoffs. "2021 was miserable. I'm just looking for stabilization right now. I know what I need to do to be the best version of me and be able to lead an organization. I'm in a good place right now. I have no clue where I'm going." Seattle and Carolina are still believed to be possible landing spots for Mayfield, who is looking forward to a reset of his career. □

**Happy  
EASTER**

**Sunday April, 17th 2022**

**Get \$15 Free Slot Play  
And Earn Your 2X POINTS**

**Slot Starts | 10am To 3am!  
Register at our Playersclub Desk  
For all existing members**

*Happy Easter  
Weekend*

**Orchid Casino**  
Palm Beach, Aruba



# Kibira Siman

## SPECIALS

VALID FROM 13 APR - 4 MAY '22

**HOT  
ITEM**



Johnnie Walker  
Red Label 1L

**\$34.<sup>05</sup>**

**2X BOTTLE 57.14**



Rum Palmera  
1.75L

**\$31.<sup>42</sup>**



Baileys Irish Cream 700ml

**\$31.<sup>42</sup>**

**SAVE  
\$8.<sup>57</sup>**



Stella Artois Bottle 12oz

**\$2.<sup>57</sup>**



Stella Artois 12oz Case

**\$48.<sup>57</sup>**



Guinness Foreign Extra Bottle  
330ml

**\$3.<sup>17</sup>**



Guinness Foreign Extra Case

**\$65.<sup>71</sup>**



Desperados Beer Assorted  
Flavors 33cl Case

**\$68.<sup>57</sup>**

**SAVE  
\$6.<sup>73</sup>**



Somersby Blackberry  
Cider 330ml Case

**\$43.<sup>42</sup>**

**NEW ARRIVALS**



Cavit Lunetta Rose 750ml

**\$17.<sup>14</sup>**



Absolut Vodka 750ml

**\$28.<sup>57</sup>**

**Camping  
Season**

Promocion ta valido entre 13 apr - 4 may  
2022 y tanten cu tin den stock. Cantidad  
limita pa famia por varia pa producto.

**SUPER  
Do it Center.**